

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/626,375

Examiner

Toan C. To

Applicant(s)

HARVEY ET AL.

Art Unit

3616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Original Disclosure.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-13, 33-44 and 49-51.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 9/23/04; 10/02/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Toan To
Patent Examiner
June 10, 2006

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Species 1, represented by figure 3, claims 1-13, 33-44, and 49-51 in the reply filed on March 20, 2006 is acknowledged.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-13, 33-44, and 49-51 allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to claim 1, the prior art either alone or in combination fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a reverse operation control circuit for a lawn tractor comprising: an override switch that allows operation of a PTO driven implement while the lawn tractor is in reverse when an actuator of the override switch is in a first position and inhibits operation of the PTO driven implement while the lawn tractor is in reverse when the actuator of the override switch is in a second position, said override switch inhibits said ignition switch from energizing said starter motor with said battery when said actuator of the override switch is in said first position. These structures in combination with other structures as recited in claim 1 define over prior art of record.

With respect to claim 33, the prior art either alone or in combination fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a reverse operation control circuit for a lawn tractor comprising: a mow in reverse override switch having an actuator that is movable between a first position and a second position, wherein said mow in reverse override switch prevents the starter motor from starting the engine when the actuator is in the

Art Unit: 3616

first position and wherein said reverse sensing switch, said PTO switch, and said mow in reverse override switch prevent said engine from operating when the lawn tractor is in reverse, the PTO is engaged, and the actuator is in the second position. These structures in combination with other structures as recited in claim 33 define over prior art of record.

With respect to claim 37, the prior art either alone or in combination fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a reverse operation control circuit for a lawn tractor comprising: a mow in reverse override switch having an actuator that is movable between a first position and a second position, wherein said mow in reverse override switch opens a path from the battery to the solenoid to prevent the engine from starting when the actuator is in the first position and the reverse sensing switch, the PTO switch, and said mow in reverse override switch to prevent the engine from operating when the lawn tractor is in reverse, the PTO driven implement is engaged, and the actuator is in the second position. These structures in combination with other structures as recited in claim 37 define over prior art of record.

With respect to claim 42, the prior art either alone or in combination fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a method of controlling reverse operation of a lawn tractor, comprising: allowing operation of a PTO driven implement while the lawn tractor is in reverse when an actuator of an override switch is in a first position; and inhibiting energizing of a starter motor when the actuator of the override switch is in said first position.

Art Unit: 3616

With respect to claim 49, the prior art either alone or in combination fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a method of controlling reverse operation of a lawn tractor, comprising: sensing when a PTO driven implement is engaged; preventing a starter motor from starting a lawn tractor engine when an override switch actuator is in a first position; and preventing said engine from operating when the lawn tractor is in reverse, the PTO driven implement is engaged, and the actuator is in a second position.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Toan C. To whose telephone number is (571) 272-6677. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Dickson can be reached on (571) 272-6669. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3616

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TTo
June 10, 2006

 6/12/06
PAUL N. DICKSON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600